



University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP) Cyclical Review: Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan

Programs Reviewed:	Cognitive Science, B.A., (Major) B.Sc. (Major)
Division/Unit offering programs:	Faculty of Arts & Science, offered in association with University College
Commissioning Officer:	Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science
Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):	1. Professor Andrew Brook, Chancellor's Professor of Philosophy and Cognitive Science, Department of Philosophy, Carleton University 2. Professor John Connolly, Chair, Department of Linguistics and Languages, McMaster University
Date of review visit:	March 23 – 24, 2017
Date reported to AP&P:	November 2, 2017

Unless otherwise noted, all bulleted comments apply to all programs reviewed.

1 Outcome

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.

2 Significant Program Strengths

- Ongoing, impressive work on curriculum building and curriculum renewal
- Strong enrolment growth
- Able and mostly enthusiastic students; strong support from student group
- Strong support from four supporting units: Psychology, Computer Science, Linguistics, Philosophy

- Dedicated support staff
- Strong support from University College

3 Opportunities for Program Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Addressing difficulties in offering an integrated, well-rounded curriculum due to dependence on courses from other units
- Creating co-op or internship options and increasing the number of research opportunities to improve experiential learning and recruitment
- Making more faculty cross appointments to provide more academic advising and engage in alumni outcomes tracking
- Realizing untapped program potential, including more program visibility, undergraduate enrolment growth, and a graduate offering supported by the cognate units

4 Implementation Plan

The Dean undertook in consultation with the Unit to support the following changes:

- Immediate Term (6 months)
 - Addressing curricular needs
 - The unit has increased enrolment in the introductory course and is offering it during the summer
 - The unit is offering a new course, Seminar in Cognitive Science, which expands student research opportunities
 - To ensure the ongoing quality of the program, the unit introduced admission requirements which require that students designated a Cognitive Science prerequisite course, or a combination of 1.5 FCE in Computer Science, Linguistics, Philosophy, and Psychology with no more than 1 FCE from a single department
 - Creating experiential learning and research opportunities
 - The unit has started to develop experiential learning initiatives for undergraduates in the program
 - In Winter 2018, the unit will introduce an experiential learning course that juxtaposes theory and real world experience
 - Making more faculty cross appointments
 - A new cross-appointed faculty member will begin in Winter 2018
 - The Program Director will work with the stakeholder units to ensure that students have access to appropriate advising and to mentoring from faculty
 - Realizing untapped program potential
 - The program will build on successes and promote Cognitive Science through the University College Advancement Office and the FAS Advancement Office
- Medium Term (1-2 years)
 - Addressing curricular needs
 - The unit will continue to work with four stakeholder departments (Computer Science, Linguistics, Philosophy, Psychology) to ensure students have access key courses in these disciplines

- Computer Science faculty will submit new Cognitive Science course proposals in the next curriculum cycle to expand offerings in this popular area
- Creating experiential learning and research opportunities
 - The unit will pursue opportunities to tap into University College's commitment to experiential learning
- Making more faculty cross appointments
 - The unit will discuss potential cross appointments with stakeholder units. Requests for faculty appointments will be considered by the Faculty Appointments Committee
- Longer Term (3-5 years)
 - Making more faculty cross appointments
 - The unit will consider the possibility of a graduate collaborative specialization with stakeholder units

The Dean's Office will follow up annually with the unit to assess progress.

5 Executive Summary

The reviewers identified the programs' strengths as the ongoing, impressive work on curriculum building and curriculum renewal; strong enrolment growth; able and mostly enthusiastic students and student group; strong support from four contributing units: Psychology, Computer Science, Linguistics, Philosophy; dedicated support staff; and strong support from University College. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: addressing difficulties in offering an integrated, well-rounded curriculum due to dependence on courses from other units; creating co-op or internship options and increasing the number of research opportunities to improve experiential learning and recruitment; making more faculty cross appointments to provide more academic advising and engage in alumni outcomes tracking; and realizing untapped program potential, including more program visibility, undergraduate enrolment growth, and a graduate offering supported by the cognate units. The unit has increased enrolment in the introductory course and is offering a new course on student research opportunities. The unit has started to develop experiential learning initiatives and will introduce an experiential learning course. A new cross-appointed faculty member will begin in Winter 2018. The Program Director will work with the stakeholder units to ensure that students have access to appropriate advising and to mentoring from faculty. The program will build on successes and promote Cognitive Science through the University College Advancement Office and the FAS Advancement Office. The unit will work with four stakeholder departments (Computer Science, Linguistics, Philosophy, Psychology) to ensure students have access to key courses in these disciplines and to discuss potential cross appointments. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.